

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Racket shaft $[(1)]$ that at one end is intended to be connected to a racket head $[(3)]$, said racket shaft $[(1)]$ comprising a grip portion $[(13)]$, said racket shaft $[(1)]$ at its other end having a knob $[(11)]$ that is detachably mounted on the racket shaft $[(1)]$, said knob $[(11)]$ having an across dimension $[(T)]$ that is larger than the diameter $[(D)]$ of the portion of the racket shaft $[(1)]$ to which the knob $[(11)]$ is attached, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein the grip portion $[(13)]$ is equipped with two bulgings ~~(5, 7)~~ that are of equal length, ~~that~~ the grip portion $[(13)]$ is in the shape of an exchangeable part that is mounted on a core $[(12)]$ of the racket shaft $[(1)]$, and ~~that~~ the knob $[(11)]$ in mounted position abuts the free end of the core $[(12)]$ and constitutes a stopper of the grip portion $[(13)]$.

2. (currently amended) Racket shaft $[(1)]$ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the knob $[(11)]$ is partly spherical.

3. (currently amended) Racket shaft $[(1)]$ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the knob

[[11]] has an externally threaded portion [[14]], that the core [[12]] has an internally threaded hole [[16]], in which the externally threaded portion [[14]] is intended to be received.

4. (currently amended) Racket shaft [[1]] according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the core [[12]] has an externally out-of-round cross sectional shape, and that an internal hole [[8]] of the grip portion [[13]] has a corresponding out-of-round cross sectional shape.

5. (currently amended) Racket shaft [[1]] according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cross sectional shape is octagonal.

6. (currently amended) Racket that comprises a racket shaft [[1]] and a racket head [[3]], said racket shaft [[1]] comprising a grip portion [[13]], and ~~that the racket shaft (1) has an~~ having a knob [[11]] at ~~its~~ an end facing away from the racket head [[3]], said knob [[11]] being detachably mounted on the racket shaft [[1]], said knob [[11]] having an across dimension [[T]] that is larger than the diameter [[D]] of the portion of the racket shaft [[1]] that the knob [[11]] is attached to,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the grip portion [[13]] is equipped with two bulgings ~~(5, 7)~~ of equal length, ~~that~~ the grip portion (13) is designed as an exchangeable part, ~~that~~ is mounted on a core [[12]] of the racket shaft

[[(1)]], and ~~that~~ the knob [[(11)]] in mounted position ~~about~~
directly adjoins the grip portion of the end of the racket shaft
~~(1) that~~ and constitutes a stopper of the grip portion [[(13)]].

7. (currently amended) Racket according to claim 6,
~~e-h-a-r-a-c-t-e-r-i-z-e-d-i-n-t-h-a-t~~ wherein the knob [[(11)]] is
partly spherical.

8. (currently amended) Racket according to claim 6,
~~e-h-a-r-a-c-t-e-r-i-z-e-d-i-n-t-h-a-t~~ wherein the knob [[(11)]] has
an externally threaded portion [[(14)]], that the core [[(12)]]
has an internally threaded hole [[(16)]], in which the externally
threaded portion [[(14)]] is intended to be received.

9. (currently amended) Racket according to claim 6,
~~e-h-a-r-a-c-t-e-r-i-z-e-d-i-n-t-h-a-t~~ wherein the core [[(12)]] has
an externally out-of-round cross sectional shape, and that an
internal hole [[(8)]] of the grip portion [[(13)]] has a
corresponding out-of-round cross sectional shape.

10. (currently amended) Racket according to claim 9,
~~e-h-a-r-a-c-t-e-r-i-z-e-d-i-n-t-h-a-t~~ wherein the cross sectional
shape is octagonal.

11. (currently amended) Racket shaft [[(1)]] according
to claim 2, ~~e-h-a-r-a-c-t-e-r-i-z-e-d-i-n-t-h-a-t~~ wherein the knob
[[(11)]] has an externally threaded portion [[(14)]], that the
core [[(12)]] has an internally threaded hole [[(16)]], in which
the externally threaded portion [[(14)]] is intended to be
received.

12. (currently amended) Racket according to claim 7, ~~e h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t~~ wherein the knob $[(11)]$ has an externally threaded portion $[(14)]$, that the core $[(12)]$ has an internally threaded hole $[(16)]$, in which the externally threaded portion $[(14)]$ is intended to be received.

13. (currently amended) Racket according to claim 7, ~~e h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t~~ wherein the core $[(12)]$ has an externally out-of-round cross sectional shape, and that an internal hole $[(8)]$ of the grip portion $[(13)]$ has a corresponding out-of-round cross sectional shape.

14. (currently amended) Racket according to claim 8, ~~e h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t~~ the core $[(12)]$ has an externally out-of-round cross sectional shape, and that an internal hole $[(8)]$ of the grip portion $[(13)]$ has a corresponding out-of-round cross sectional shape.

15. (new) A racket comprising a racket shaft and a racket head, said racket shaft comprising:

a core connected at a first end to said racket head, and having an opposing free second end;

a grip portion demountably surrounding said core along a length of said core, said grip portion having a variable diameter with a first diameter at said first end of said core that gradually increases to a second diameter then gradually decreases to said first diameter then gradually increases to said

second diameter and then gradually decreases to said first diameter at said second end of said core; and

an knob detachably mounted to said core at said second end, said knob having a cross-sectional dimension that is larger than a diameter of the racket shaft at the free second end of the core.